United Nations A/72/489

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 September 2017
English
Original: Spanish

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 114 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 14 September 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Mexico has the honour to state that the Government of Mexico has decided to present its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2018-2020 at the elections to be held on 16 October 2017 during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

In that connection, the Permanent Mission of Mexico is pleased to present the key contributions and commitments of the Government of Mexico to the protection and promotion of human rights at the national and international level (see annex).

17-16454 (E) 031017 171017

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 14 September 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

Candidature of Mexico for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2018-2020

Pledges and contributions of Mexico to the promotion and protection of human rights

1. The candidature of Mexico for election to the Human Rights Council is based on its unwavering commitment to human rights at the national and international level. The strongest foundation for that commitment is its Constitution, which provides that promoting, upholding, protecting and safeguarding human rights must be at the heart of government action and makes human rights one of the guiding principles of its foreign policy.

2. The Government of Mexico has accordingly developed a robust normative and institutional framework to safeguard the human rights of all its citizens. This framework is continually reviewed and strengthened through democratic dialogue and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. The aim is to address human rights challenges through due attention and follow-up.

3. In parallel, the Government of Mexico has worked to advance the human rights agenda at the international level by strengthening the standards and institutions that form part of the international human rights system, aware that they represent a valuable tool to guide and support national efforts.

4. Mexico recognizes that the Human Rights Council is the body that is best suited to further the international human rights agenda. The Council, together with its mechanisms and subsidiary bodies, is the central component of the universal human rights system.

5. In this document, Mexico sets out the key steps it has taken to protect and promote human rights at the national and international level, as well as the proposals and pledges it will work on as a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2018-2020.

I. Mexico in the Human Rights Council: an actor with global responsibility

6. Convinced that the three pillars upon which the United Nations is founded — peace and security, development and human rights — are interdependent and interrelated, Mexico has worked decisively to consolidate and strengthen the Council as the body "responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner".

7. Mexico has sought to put this commitment into practice during its three terms as a member of the Council:

- 2006-2009: Mexico had the honour of holding the first presidency of the Council, during which it shouldered the vast and delicate responsibility of leading the negotiations that resulted in the agreement on the institutional basis of the new body.

- 2009-2012: Mexico participated actively in the quinquennial review of the Council, making innovative proposals to increase the Council's potential and to resolve the problems identified during its first five years of existence.
- 2014-2016: Mexico actively fostered better working methods and the appropriate use of all the Council's tools, including by promoting international cooperation and the Council's role in preventing human rights crises.

II. Accountability: action taken by Mexico to fulfil its commitments (2014-2016)

8. During the period 2014-2016, Mexico based its action in the Human Rights Council on the commitments and voluntary pledges it made when it was elected. Its initiatives have been classified into three groups and are summarized below.

Strengthening the international human rights system, in particular the Human Rights Council

9. Mexico has actively promoted initiatives that increase cross-regional dialogue and collaboration within the Human Rights Council, having recognized the need for different national cultures and realities to join forces in order to be able to work towards common goals.

10. Mexico has participated actively in multiple initiatives and dialogues aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Council to carry out its mandate fully and effectively in an objective and balanced manner.

11. Mexico has contributed to the identification of practical means of improving the Council's work by supporting thematic meetings to analyse the Council's coordination and cooperation with other United Nations entities with a view to giving it a greater role in the prevention of massive human rights violations.

12. Mexico has fostered synergies between the mandates of Council mechanisms by promoting ongoing communication between them and by recognizing their intersectionalities with a view to maximizing their potential and avoiding the duplication of effort and resources.

13. Mexico has rationalized its initiatives in the Council and the General Assembly so that they are complementary and relevant to the mandate of each forum. During the period 2014-2016, Mexico introduced 37 draft resolutions. In addition, Mexico:

- Sponsored 121 resolutions
- Sponsored 39 side events
- Organized 10 panel discussions
- Initiated five joint statements

14. Mexico has endeavoured to ensure that the Council functions as a two-way forum for dialogue and cooperation. In other words, it should fully develop its mandate on prevention while also facilitating technical assistance and cooperation to strengthen States' capacity to protect and promote human rights. Mexico has also encouraged the Council to take a balanced and objective approach to its obligation to address specific human rights situations by considering all information sources and by seeking as much cooperation as possible from the States in question.

15. Convinced that non-governmental actors make a vital contribution to the Council's work, Mexico promotes open and dynamic dialogue with parliaments,

national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, businesses and academia.

16. Mexico regularly introduces, alone or in association with other countries, draft resolutions that aim to afford greater protection to the rights of individuals in situations of vulnerability of marginalization and prevent discrimination and human rights violations on any grounds.

17. Similarly, Mexico has initiated and participated in joint statements on key issues such as gender equality, transparency and access to information, and the right to privacy.

18. Mexico upholds the universal periodic review as the most effective universal tool for dialogue and cooperation on human rights. Mexico participated in its second review in October 2013 and is following up on the 166 agreed recommendations though a participatory national process. Mexico has undertaken to implement and follow up on these recommendations through its 2014-2018 National Human Rights Programme. In addition, pursuant to the principles of cooperation, universality and equal treatment, Mexico participates in the reviews of all States under the universal periodic review. It submits constructive questions, remarks and recommendations with a view to supporting the efforts of States to address their human rights challenges.

19. During the first cycle of the universal periodic review, Mexico participated in the interactive dialogues of 187 of the 193 States under review. During the second cycle, Mexico participated in all the interactive dialogues.

20. Mexico has advocated for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to be strengthened. It has made proposals on ensuring its effective and autonomous functioning, including through the provision of adequate resources for the execution of its mandate. Mexico makes voluntary annual contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner and to the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

21. On the basis of its commitment to mainstream a human rights perspective into United Nations work in a coherent manner, Mexico was one of the most active proponents of the human rights perspective in the outcomes of the main summits and conferences held recently within the United Nations. In particular, Mexico promoted the mainstreaming of human rights, a gender perspective and the protection of the rights of specific population groups in:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals
- The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem
- The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, including regional mechanisms

22. Mexico maintains an open and standing invitation to all international human rights mechanisms. Convinced that its experience and professionalism serve to strengthen the public policy framework and support compliance with international obligations, Mexico has to date (2006-2017) hosted visits from 29 United Nations mechanisms since becoming a member of the Council.

23. In 2015, Mexico received a visit by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the spirit of openness and cooperation with the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner.

24. In addition, since its election to the Council in 2013, Mexico has received the following visits:

(a) Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (April-May 2013);

(b) Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (April-May 2014);

(c) United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (August-September 2016);

(d) Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (December 2016);

(e) United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (January 2017);

(f) Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation (May 2017).

25. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Organization of American States will visit Mexico in November 2017.

26. It is worth noting that during the period 2013-2017, Mexico has received five visits from regional human rights mechanisms.[1] The visits have promoted dialogue on the country's progress and challenges in different areas of human rights work, and raised the national profile of human rights matters. The observations and recommendations emerging from these visits help us to strengthen our efforts in those areas of focus.

27. In compliance with its international obligations, Mexico has submitted and defended periodic reports to the treaty bodies. Through these processes, we report on measures to guarantee respect for human rights in the country and identify areas that require increased efforts and focus. In the past few years Mexico has submitted and defended the following reports:

(a) Initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (submitted in April 2011; defended in September 2014);

(b) Fourth and fifth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (submitted in July 2012; defended in May 2015);

[1] The Session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was held in Mexico (August 2014). Rapporteurs for Mexico and on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (September 2014). Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (October 2014). Rapporteurs for Mexico and on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (September 2015). On-site visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (September-October 2015) — Mechanism for following up the precautionary measures put in place by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in relation to the disappearance of 43 students of Raúl Isidro Burgos rural teaching college (November 2016; January 2017; March 2017; April 2017).

(c) Report on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (submitted in March 2014; defended in February 2015);

(d) Fifth and sixth periodic reports on follow-up to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (submitted in June 2016; defence scheduled for September 2017);

(e) Ninth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (submitted in December 2016; defence scheduled for July 2018);

(f) Third report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (submitted in May 2017 and defended in September 2017);

(g) Eighteenth and twenty-first periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (submitted in June 2017).

28. In 2017, we expect to submit the following national reports to human rights treaty bodies:

- Sixth follow-up report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Seventh report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

29. As an open, pluralistic and democratic society, Mexico considers dialogue and collaboration with civil society indispensable to the processes of promoting and protecting human rights. Accordingly, we have developed mechanisms to ensure the involvement of civil society in the preparation of reports and the follow-up to the observations issued by the treaty bodies.

30. To promote transparency and accessibility of information, Mexico maintains, in collaboration with the Mexico office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Economic Research and Teaching Centre, a recommendations portal where it publishes all the recommendations issued by international and regional human rights mechanisms directed to Mexico.

31. In 2001, at the request of Mexico, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights opened a country office in Mexico. The collaboration between that office and entities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Government has been fruitful; together they have developed, inter alia, joint work plans, human rights programmes for the federative entities (the 31 states of the federal republic and Mexico City), legislative harmonization initiatives and indicators. On 22 February 2017, the parties signed an agreement providing for the continuation of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner in Mexico, with the aim of strengthening their ongoing cooperation and revitalizing their relationship.

32. At the signing of the agreement, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Luis Videgaray Caso, said: "This ceremony evokes three important reasons for the renewal, which are worth highlighting: first, it is a crucial and tangible step down the right path, the path to protecting and guaranteeing human rights, in accordance with the mandates of our Constitution and the international treaties to which we are a party. Second, it is a clear demonstration of the openness with which Mexico addresses human rights challenges. We unambiguously acknowledge that major work in the field of human rights remains to be done, and we invite international scrutiny, starting with United Nations scrutiny, which is a fundamental means of

achieving the necessary transformation. Third, a critical element of this collaboration is the confidence placed by Mexico in the mechanisms for collective resolution of humanity's problems, and particularly in the multilateral institutions that we have created in the last 70 years."

Compliance with international obligations and commitments at the national level

33. Since the constitutional reform of 2011, in Mexico, the standard that provides for the greatest protection of human rights must be applied — whether that is a national standard or one contained in the international treaties to which Mexico is a party. Furthermore, the country's cooperation with the international human rights system contributes to the strengthening of the national normative, institutional and public policy framework.

34. Between 2013-2016, we have focused our human rights work on two major areas:

(a) Harmonization of legislation: there have been over 12 processes for the development, reform or adoption of legislation, in line with the highest human rights standards; these laws concern, inter alia, victim care, education, indigenous peoples' participation, labour rights, discrimination, military justice, electoral participation, the rights of children and adolescents, enforced disappearance, criminal justice and torture (see enclosure 1);

(b) Strengthening of human rights institutions and development of public policies on human rights. We have established criteria for aligning national programmes and actions with indicators from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. We have also developed national plans and programmes, taking into consideration the provisions of the human rights conventions and the recommendations issued by the relevant committees (see enclosure 2).

III. Pledges and commitments made by Mexico to the promotion and protection of human rights for the period 2018-2020

35. Mexico renews its commitments with regard to strengthening and collaborating with the international system, meeting its international obligations and national implementation. Set out below are its main goals for membership of the Human Rights Council and the specific activities it will carry out during the period 2018-2020.

36. With the aim of strengthening the role of the Human Rights Council as the body that promotes and protects human rights at the international level, Mexico proposes the following actions:

(a) Promote the highest human rights standards, in particular those relating to non-discrimination, the rights of migrants and indigenous peoples, substantive gender equality in law and in practice, privacy, identity, labour and counter-terrorism;

(b) Promote the role of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as facilitators of international cooperation in the areas of human rights, national capacity-building and the sharing of experiences and good practices;

(c) Continue advocating for the objective treatment of human rights situations around the world through an approach that is preventive and based on dialogue, collaboration and capacity-building;

(d) Continue to promote the effectiveness, autonomy and independence of the Office of the High Commissioner and Council mechanisms, and to support budgetary or administrative measures that will help improve their functioning;

(e) Uphold the universal periodic review mechanism as the most effective universal cooperation tool through ongoing dialogue with States and civil society;

(f) Contribute to increasing the impact of Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions on the ground; in other words, help ensure that their qualitative content facilitates their national implementation;

(g) Promote the Council's cooperation with national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society, parliaments, the private sector and other international organizations;

(h) Continue to foster interregional dialogue and collaboration within the Council;

37. In order to drive the mainstreaming of human rights in United Nations work and complement the cross-cutting work of United Nations entities in promoting and protecting human rights, Mexico proposes to:

(a) Promote activities that foster cooperation and dialogue between the Human Rights Council and other United Nations bodies, thus avoiding the duplication of effort;

(b) Foster the integration of human rights promotion and protection in United Nations processes as a guiding principle;

(c) Continue to promote the inter-relatedness of the development, security and human rights pillars, and ensure that the Council's work is coordinated with and complements that of the General Assembly and other bodies.

38. In order to maintain the policy of openness and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, the following actions will be taken:

(a) Establish and/or strengthen inter-institutional collaboration frameworks, in order to follow up on the observations made following visits;

(b) Submit and defend the relevant reports on the implementation of human rights treaties;

(c) Improve the systems for consulting civil society when preparing and defending reports to treaty bodies, and the mechanisms for addressing and following up on the observations issued by treaty bodies;

(d) Establish an inter-agency mechanism to ensure accountability for implementing the recommendations made during the review of Mexico under the universal periodic review, and to analyse challenges and progress in the area of human rights;

(e) Ensure dialogue with and participation of national civil society organizations and independent human rights bodies, in preparation for the third review of Mexico under the universal periodic review.

39. In terms of national consistency with the international human rights system, Mexico will redouble its efforts to incorporate the highest international human rights standards into national policies and implement constitutional reforms effectively by seeking to:

(a) Maintain the highest possible commitment to the protection of journalists and human rights defenders, and strengthen and improve the functioning of the

Journalists and Human Rights Defenders Protection Mechanism by reinforcing its preventive approach;

(b) Promote the adoption of the general law on the prevention of disappearances;

(c) Consolidate gender mainstreaming throughout public policy, in accordance with the national development plan, and continue to advance women and girls' human rights, with particular emphasis on measures to eliminate gender-based violence and eradicate all multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(d) Work to ensure that the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration contributes to a humane vision of migration that is based on respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status;

(e) Continue designing a national programme on business and human rights, which will strengthen the normative and institutional framework and ensure human rights are upheld by the private sector;

(f) Promote the ratification of regional human rights instruments on protecting the human rights of older persons and eliminating racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance;

(g) Continue designing the national disability information system, whose two main components will be a national register of persons with disabilities and its georeferenced information system;

(h) Continue to provide leadership on the elimination of all forms of violence against women, children and adolescents as a pathfinder country in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and to work on the four priorities set out in the road map in order to make progress on the first stage of implementing the Partnership in Mexico;

(i) Follow up as necessary on the recommendations issued by the universal and regional mechanisms.

Enclosure I

Action taken on legislative harmonization from 2014 to 2016

- The General Victims Act of January 2013 establishes the National Victim Support System and the Executive Commission for Victim Support and safeguards the rights of victims of crime and human rights violations, in particular their right to assistance, protection, truth, justice and comprehensive reparation. This represents an unprecedented step forward since it compels the three branches and levels of Government to ensure that victims are protected and receive the necessary assistance.

- The constitutional reforms of February 2013 in the area of education guarantee free public education, fully safeguard teachers' labour rights and create a national evaluation system to ensure that education services are of a good quality.

- Regarding the electoral rights of indigenous peoples, a constitutional amendment was enacted on 22 May 2015 to protect the rights of indigenous women and men to vote and be voted for on equal terms, and to have access to and hold the public and popularly elected positions to which they have been elected or appointed. The reform establishes that the political and electoral rights of citizens in municipal elections must under no circumstances be limited by community practices.

- International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention of 1973 (No. 138) has been adopted and national labour law has been reformed. On 13 May 2015, the decree whereby the Convention was adopted was published. In addition, article 123 of the Constitution and the Federal Labour Act have been amended to raise the minimum age for admission to employment.

- On 20 March 2014, several amendments to the Federal Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination Act were published that strengthened the framework protecting the right to non-discrimination and heightened its effective realization. These amendments brought the Act into line with the international human rights treaties ratified by Mexico and with the constitutional reform of June 2011. An obligation was also created to devise and implement equality measures and to take affirmative action in favour of discriminated groups. In addition, enhanced mechanisms were created to ensure that discrimination by individuals or institutions would not go unpunished and to improve the follow-up of public policies and legislative reforms that safeguard equality.

- Article 57 of the Code of Military Justice was amended in 2014 to limit military jurisdiction and ensure that human rights violations committed against civilians are prosecuted in a civilian court, in line with international standards.

- Thanks to the 2014 reform of the political and electoral provisions of article 41 of the Constitution, gender parity among candidates for the Congress of the Union and the local congresses is guaranteed, and women's political rights have been expanded.

- The General Rights of Children and Adolescents Act of December 2014 represents a paradigm shift in the way that the Government protects and promotes the rights of children and adolescents, since it recognizes them as full rights holders in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and coordinates Government action at all levels to protect and promote these rights. It establishes for that purpose a national child and adolescent

protection system and a federal child protection office, together with their equivalents at the state and municipal level.

- A reform of the criminal justice system was approved in 2008 and entered into force in June 2016. This was one of the most profound legal and institutional transformations in Mexican history and it represents a watershed in law enforcement and the administration of justice. Following a constitutional amendment, a transition is under way in criminal procedure terms from an inquisitorial model to an oral, adversarial model, whose principles (trials must be public; both parties must be heard; legal proceedings should take place over as few days as possible, which should be consecutive; and a judge must be present at all times) are enshrined in the Constitution.

- A draft general law on enforced disappearance was introduced by the executive branch in the Congress of the Union in December 2015. It was drafted through a broad three-stage consultation process in which citizens, civil society organizations and the federative entities participated, and was supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Mexico office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The draft law was approved by the Senate in May 2017 and is being debated by the Chamber of Deputies. It will enable a new public policy to be formulated on searching for and locating missing persons.

- The General Prevention, Investigation and Punishment of Torture Crimes Act was introduced by the executive branch in Congress in December 2015 and approved in May 2017. Its aim is to align the definition of the crime of torture in the 32 federative entities with international standards. It also proposes the creation of the following entities:

  (a) Specialized investigation units at the federal level and in the federative entities to combat this crime more effectively;

  (b) A national prevention mechanism comprising the National Human Rights Commission and the state ombudspersons, with participation from representatives of international organizations, civil society, academics and experts;

  (c) A national register of crimes of torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment, comprising the databases of the Office of the Attorney General and local attorneys-general.

Enclosure 2

Action taken on human rights in the areas of institution-building and public policymaking from 2013 to 2016

The 2014-2018 National Human Rights Programme is the national guiding instrument on human rights and the national programmes and activities of each Secretary of State (Ministry) must be aligned with it. The programme was designed bearing in mind the recommendations made to Mexico by the National Human Rights Commission, the inter-American human rights system and United Nations mechanisms, including the universal periodic review.

- The programme makes it mandatory to systematize human rights information in order to strengthen public policy and specifically states that the indicators methodology of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights must be used. Work is under way to implement the methodology and that of the Organization of American States in order to develop a national system for evaluating the fulfilment of human rights. A strategic partnership has been formed with the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Office of the High Commissioner and the National Human Rights Commission.

- Furthermore, Mexico has developed a variety of programmes on specific human rights issues. The 2013-2018 National Programme for Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination against Women was designed taking into account the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the general recommendations formulated by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as well as its 2012 concluding observations on Mexico. The 2014-2018 National Programme for Equality and Non-Discrimination aims to incorporate, adapt and strengthen the anti-discrimination policy of Mexico on the basis of article 1 of the Constitution. The National Child and Adolescent Protection Programme and the National Programme to Prevent and Eradicate Child Labour and Protect Adolescent Workers of Legal Working Age aim to safeguard children's human rights, ensure their voices are heard when decisions are made that affect them, eradicate child labour and protect adolescent workers of legal working age. The 2014-2018 National Programme for the Advancement and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities in education, health and employment and harmonizes legislation to facilitate their access to justice and their participation in public and political life. The 2014-2018 Special Migration Programme coordinates the action taken by Mexico to comprehensively address international migration.

- The 2014-2018 National Programme for the Social Prevention of Violence and Delinquency seeks, among other goals, to incorporate a human rights perspective into public security policy. The Government of Mexico will continue to strengthen its capacity to ensure public security while complying fully with international human rights standards.

- On 19 August 2015, the standardized protocol for searching for missing persons and investigating enforced disappearances and the standardized protocol for investigating the crime of torture entered into force. Used by attorneys general and prosecutors throughout the country, they align the criteria for criminal investigations with national and international standards and recommendations and provide guidance on the different stages of an investigation. The aim is to avoid secondary victimization and to formulate

strategies on the correct and immediate action to be taken when faced with such acts.

- In October 2015, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Search for Missing Persons was established, which is responsible for leading, coordinating and overseeing missing person investigations. It was set up in response to various international recommendations made to Mexico.

- The protocol on consular assistance for unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents (presented in May 2015) is a tool for conducting consular interviews. It helps to provide minors with comprehensive and individualized assistance, so as to be able to assess their best interests, identify possible situations of risk in a timely manner and take protection measures that safeguard each of their rights. It was designed in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

- The protocol on protecting the rights of children and adolescents during migration procedures and upholding the related principles was published in August 2016. It aims to protect the rights of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents when they are involved in administrative migration procedures and uphold the related principles.

- The national transparency system was established in May 2015 by means of the General Transparency and Access to Public Information Act. This law provides for a comprehensive, organized and coordinated public policy to ensure that the rights of access to information and protection of personal data are effectively exercised and upheld by fostering education and civic culture in these two rights throughout the country.

- The national anti-corruption system, enacted in May 2015, coordinates social actors and different levels of government in the prevention, investigation and punishment of corruption. It increases the oversight powers of the Supreme Federal Audit Office to carry out real-time audits and to audit federal resources allocated to states and municipalities that are used by trusts, funds and public and private mandates. Under the national transparency system, firms that receive public funds must abide by transparency requirements and criminal penalties may be imposed for corruption.

- The Criminal Investigation Unit for Migrants and the Mechanism for Mexican Support Abroad in Search and Investigation Activities was created in December 2015 to enable migrants to uncover the facts and to seek protection and reparation. The unit is authorized to investigate crimes committed by and against migrants and to search for missing migrants.

- The National System for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, created in May 2016, aims to coordinate and monitor public and private inter-institutional programmes, action and mechanisms that implement public policies for the development and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- The functioning of the Journalists and Human Rights Defenders Protection Mechanism was improved in three stages: (1) in collaboration with Freedom House, the mechanism's internal procedures and methodology were analysed to address the delay in assessing cases and to increase efficiency by strengthening its risk assessment capacity; (2) the effectiveness of protection measures was improved and a gender perspective was incorporated into risk analyses; in addition, training was provided to the governing board, the staff of the intake, rapid response and risk assessment units, and to human rights defenders and journalists; (3) a prevention unit was created and guidelines were established for its operation.

- On 17 May 2017, the President of the Republic committed to strengthening the structure and budget of the mechanism and the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Freedom of Expression and to establishing a national system for coordination with the states together with a protocol for its operation.